



# JERRY PETROWSKI

## WISCONSIN STATE SENATOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **Senator Petrowski Bill Adds Twelve Additional Circuit Court Branches Across Wisconsin**

*Madison...* Governor Tony Evers signed into law today a bill authored by State Senator Jerry Petrowski (R-Marathon) which will relieve the strain on our state's court system by adding twelve additional circuit court branches. The bill, AB 470, was authored by Senator Petrowski and State Representative Ron Tusler (R-Harrison) and is now Act 184.

"There has been a growing need for additional capacity in our judicial system for a long time," said Senator Petrowski. "It is extremely gratifying to finally have this done."

Despite an increase in demand, a new court has not been added in Wisconsin since 2007. This has caused many counties to house the accused waiting for trial in their jail facilities for extended periods of time, at great cost to the local taxpayers.

"Swift justice isn't a republican issue or a democratic issue," said Senator Petrowski, "it's a constitutional issue. Part of the foundation of our country – in fact, the Sixth Amendment to our Constitution – requires that the accused receive a speedy trial. But with the back up in our court system, sometimes the accused is sitting for months awaiting trial. These delays not only deny justice to both victims and the accused, but also add enormous costs to the counties because of that increased wait time."

The legislation calls for the Director of State Courts to create an additional branch in a county if both a) the county board passes a resolution in support and b) the county will have appropriate facilities to house the new court ready by May 31<sup>st</sup> of the year in which the new branch is to be created. This new law allows for four new branches in 2021, four new branches in 2022, and four new branches in 2023.

Senator Petrowski expressed his gratitude to Representative Tusler and all their fellow legislators for their near-unanimous support of the bill and to the Governor of his signing the measure into law. Speaking at the bill signing in Wausau today, Senator Petrowski also thanked the many area judges who

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#### 29TH SENATE DISTRICT

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he worked with over the past few months who were instrumental in getting the bill passed, namely Judges Mike Moran and Greg Huber of Marathon County, Judge John Yackel of Sawyer County, and Judge Guy Dutcher of Waushara County, Judge Rod Smeltzer from Dunn County, Judge Jeff Froehlich from Calumet County, Chief Judge James Morrison from Marinette County, and Diane Fremgen, the Director of State Courts.

“Make no mistake, this was a tremendous group effort on behalf of all parties involved,” said Senator Petrowski. “We would not have been successful without everyone coming together and working towards the same common goal.”

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